

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, and 6 have been amended, and claims 2-3 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter recited therein. The amendments herein are made merely as a matter of form -- no new matter has been added nor is a new search warranted. Claims 1 and 4-15 remain pending in the captioned case. Further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-6 and 9-15 were deemed to be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To expedite prosecution, dependent claims 2-3 have been canceled and their subject matter inserted verbatim into independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants believe independent claim 1 and all remaining dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Section 103 Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0041624 to Hui et al. (hereinafter “Hui”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,624,536 to Sawada et al. (hereinafter “Sawada”). In light of the amendments to claim 1 in which allowable subject matter has been inserted (claim 3 and intervening claim 2), it is believed this rejection has been rendered moot in its entirety. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request removal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

The present amendment is believed to be a complete response to the issues raised in the final Office Action mailed June 27, 2006. In view of the remarks herein, Applicant asserts that pending claims 1 and 4-15 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Daffer McDaniel, LLP Deposit Account No. 50-3268.

Respectfully submitted,
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